

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A two-block heat exchanger comprising a plurality of refrigerant distribution parts including two overlapped plates that define refrigerant paths inside, said plurality of refrigerant distribution parts are alternatively layered with a refrigerant fin, openings that open into said refrigerant paths are formed respectively in each of said two plates, and continuous refrigerant circulation spaces are formed by abutting the openings of adjacent refrigerant distribution parts, wherein:

each of said continuous refrigerant circulation spaces is connected to an end of a respective refrigerant path;

each of said refrigerant circulation spaces has a closed end and an open end, and the open end of a first refrigerant circulation space that is connected to a first refrigerant path is connected to the open end of a second refrigerant circulation space that is connected to a second refrigerant path; and

wherein at least one refrigerant circulation space has a cross-sectional flow area that ~~changes along a length thereof~~ is limited by a plurality of openings provided in series and decreasing in cross-sectional flow area from said open end to said closed end thereof.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A heat exchanger comprising:

a plurality of refrigerant distribution parts each having a first plate and a second plate defining a first refrigerant path and a second refrigerant path therebetween, said plurality of refrigerant distribution parts being provided adjacent to one another and having a refrigerant

fin provided between adjacent refrigerant distribution parts, said plurality of refrigerant distribution parts each having openings in said first plate and said second plate that open into said first refrigerant path and said second refrigerant path,

wherein said heat exchanger includes a first continuous inlet space having an open end and a closed end and a first continuous outlet space having an open end and a closed end, said first refrigerant path connects said first continuous inlet space and said first continuous outlet space,

wherein said heat exchanger includes a second continuous inlet space having an open end and a closed end and a second continuous outlet space having an open end and a closed end, said second refrigerant path connects said second continuous inlet space and said second continuous outlet space,

wherein said first continuous inlet space, said first continuous outlet space, said second continuous inlet space, and said second continuous outlet space are formed by abutting said openings of said adjacent refrigerant distribution parts,

wherein said open end of said first continuous outlet space is connected to said open end of said second continuous inlet space by a conduit, and

wherein a cross-sectional flow area of said first continuous inlet space changes along a length thereof, and

wherein the cross-sectional flow area of said first continuous inlet space is limited by a plurality of openings provided in series and decreasing in cross-sectional flow area from said open end to said closed end thereof.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A heat exchanger according to claim [[4]] 3, wherein a cross-sectional flow area of said second continuous inlet space decreases from said open end to said closed end thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) A heat exchanger comprising:  
a plurality of refrigerant distribution parts each having a first plate and a second plate defining a first refrigerant path and a second refrigerant path therebetween, said plurality of refrigerant distribution parts being provided adjacent to one another and having a refrigerant fin provided between adjacent refrigerant distribution parts, said plurality of refrigerant distribution parts each having openings in said first plate and said second plate that open into said first refrigerant path and said second refrigerant path,

wherein said first refrigerant path connects a first continuous inlet space and a first continuous outlet space, and said second refrigerant path connects a second continuous inlet space and a second continuous outlet space, and wherein said first continuous inlet space, said first continuous outlet space, said second continuous inlet space, and said second continuous outlet space are formed by abutting said openings of said adjacent refrigerant distribution parts,

wherein said first continuous inlet space has an open end and a closed end,

wherein said first continuous outlet space is connected to said second continuous inlet space by a conduit, ~~and~~

wherein a cross-sectional flow area of said first continuous inlet space changes along a length thereof, and

wherein the cross-sectional flow area of said first continuous inlet space is limited by a plurality of openings provided in series and decreasing in cross-sectional flow area from said open end to said closed end thereof.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A heat exchanger according to claim 6, wherein a cross-sectional flow area of said second continuous inlet space changes along a length thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) A heat exchanger according to claim 8, wherein said second continuous inlet space has an open end and a closed end, and wherein the cross-sectional flow area of said second continuous inlet space decreases from said open end to said closed end thereof.